

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 4-7, and 43-46 without prejudice to the prosecution thereof in a subsequent or continuing application.

Please amend the following claims:

2. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide that comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) amino acid residues amino acid residues 21 to 231, (b) amino acid residues 21 to 210, (c) amino acid residues 22 to 231, (d) amino acid residues 22 to 210, (e) amino acid residues 22 to 108, (f) amino acid residues 112 to 210, and (g) amino acid residues 21 to 110.

3. (Amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) amino acid residues amino acid residues 21 to 231, (b) amino acid residues 21 to 210, (c) amino acid residues 22 to 231, (d) amino acid residues 22 to 210, (e) amino acid residues 22 to 108, (f) amino acid residues 112 to 210, and (g) amino acid residues 21 to 110.

50. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide according to claim 47, wherein the soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide further comprises an affinity tag, chemical moiety, toxin, label, biotin/avidin label, radionuclide, enzyme, substrate, cofactor, inhibitor, fluorescent marker, chemiluminescent marker, toxin, cytotoxic molecule or an immunoglobulin Fc domain.

54. (Amended) A method of producing a soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide that forms a heterodimeric or multimeric complex comprising:

culturing a cell comprising an expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:

(a) a transcription promoter; a first DNA segment encoding a soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide having an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acid 22-231 or 22-210; and a transcription terminator; and

(b) a second transcription promoter; a second DNA segment encoding a soluble Class I or Class II cytokine receptor polypeptide; and a transcription terminator; and

wherein the first and second DNA segments are contained within a single expression vector or are contained within independent expression vectors; and

wherein the cell expresses the polypeptides encoded by the DNA segments; and isolating the soluble receptor polypeptides produced by the cell.

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Please add the following new claims:

67. The isolated polypeptide of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide further comprises an affinity tag, label, chemical moiety, toxin, biotin/avidin label, radionuclide, enzyme, substrate, cofactor, inhibitor, fluorescent marker, chemiluminescent marker, toxin, cytotoxic molecule or an immunoglobulin Fc domain.

68. An isolated soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide homodimeric receptor complex comprising a sequence of amino acid residues as shown in SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acid 22-231 or 22-210.

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69. The isolated soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide homodimeric receptor complex of claim 68, wherein the homodimeric receptor complex further comprises an affinity tag, label, chemical moiety, toxin, biotin/avidin label, radionuclide, enzyme, substrate, cofactor, inhibitor, fluorescent marker, chemiluminescent marker, toxin, cytotoxic molecule or an immunoglobulin Fc domain.

70. The isolated soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide homodimeric receptor complex of claim 68, wherein the homodimeric receptor complex binds IL-TIF (SEQ ID NO:15) or antagonizes IL-TIF activity.

71. A method of producing a soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide homodimeric receptor complex comprising:

culturing a cell comprising an expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:

(a) a transcription promoter;

(b) a DNA segment encoding a soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide having an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acid 22-231 or 22-210; and

(c) a transcription terminator; and

wherein the cell expresses the polypeptide encoded by the DNA segment; and

wherein the polypeptide forms a homodimeric receptor complex; and

isolating the homodimeric receptor complex produced by the cell.

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